

**IN THE CLAIMS**

The following is a complete listing of pending claims with status identifiers in parenthesis.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a node of a network during a connection setup between a source node and a destination node, the method comprising the steps of:

initiating a cross-connect with an adjacent node;

at substantially the same time as the cross-connect is initiated, sending a connection setup message to a ~~plurality of next~~ node ~~nodes~~ before the cross-connect is completed; ~~and~~

~~completing the cross-connect with the adjacent node without waiting for completion of any downstream cross-connects.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the network is an optical transport network.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the cross-connect is selected from a group consisting of an electrical-based cross-connect and a transparent wavelength-based optical cross-connect.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the connection setup is selected from the group consisting of a wavelength-based